



## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### 13<sup>th</sup> MP-IDSA SOUTH ASIA CONFERENCE

## RETURN OF THE TALIBAN IN AFGHANISTAN: IMPLICATIONS AND WAY FORWARD

Day One: 16 December 2021

### INAUGURAL SESSION: 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM (IST)

- **Welcome Remarks**  
Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy, *Director General, MP-IDSA*
- **Release of Special Issue of MP-IDSA *Journal of Defence Studies* on “50 Years Later: 1971 India–Pakistan War”**

### SESSION ONE: 10:30 AM – 12.30 PM (IST)

#### *Return of Taliban: A Critical Analysis*

Chair: Amb Sujan R. Chinoy, *Director General, MP-IDSA*

Speakers: 15 minutes each

- ***Return of Taliban and What It Means for Afghanistan and Region***  
Mr Lotfullah Najafizada  
*Director, TOLO News*
- ***The Taliban's Immediate Future***  
Mr Abubakar Siddique  
*Editor, RFE/RL Prague*
- ***Afghanistan Heads Towards Uncertainty***  
Amb Shamsheer M. Chowdhury  
*Former Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh*
- ***Dr Ayesha Siddiq***  
Research Associate, SOAS, University of London
- ***Working With or Around the Taliban***  
Mr Obaidullah Baheer  
*Lecturer, American University of Afghanistan, Kabul*

#### **Q&A Session**

### SESSION TWO: 6:30 PM – 8.30 PM (IST)

#### *Perspectives on Afghanistan*

Chair: Amb Ashok Sajjanhar, Member, MP-IDSA, *Executive Council*

Speakers: 15 minutes each

- ***The Future of US Policy in Afghanistan***  
Mr Michael Kugelman  
*Deputy Director & Senior Associate, Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC*

- ***Afghanistan's Security Crisis and the Region***  
Dr Nilofar Sakhi  
Senior Fellow (NR), Atlantic Council, Washington, DC
- ***Central Asia's Approach Towards Taliban-Controlled Afghanistan***  
Mr Bruce Pannier  
*RFE/RL, Prague*
- ***The Central Asian States versus New Afghanistan***  
Dr Irina Zvyagelskaya  
*Head, Centre for the Middle East Studies, IMEMO, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow*

#### **Q&A Session**

**Day Two: 17 December 2021**

#### **SESSION THREE: 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM (IST)**

##### ***Regional Perspectives***

**Chair:** Amb Rakesh Sood, *Former Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan*

**Speakers:** 15 minutes each

- **Prof Pervez Hoodbhoy**  
*Islamabad-based physicist and writer*
- **Prof Seyed Mohammad Kazem Sajjadpour**  
*Distinguished Fellow, Institute for Political and International Studies, Tehran*
- ***Afghanistan's Road to Peace and Development***  
Dr Wang Shida  
*Deputy Director and Associate Professor, Institute for South Asian Studies, CICIR, Beijing*
- ***Return of Taliban and Reversal of Women's Rights in Afghanistan***  
Dr Bahar Jalali  
*Visiting Professor, Loyola University Maryland*
- ***Central Asia, Taliban and the Regional Security***  
Dr Akram Umarov  
*Fulbright Visiting Scholar, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*
- ***Taliban 2.0: A View from Russia***  
Dr Alexey Kupriyanov  
*Head, Group on South Asia and Indian Ocean, IMEMO, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow*

#### **Q&A Session**

#### **SESSION FOUR: 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM (IST)**

##### ***Way Forward in Afghanistan***

**Chair:** Amb Sujana R. Chinoy, *Director General, MP-IDSA*

**Speakers:** 15 minutes each

- ***Afghanistan and South Asia: Two Different Futures***  
Prof C. Raja Mohan  
*Director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore*
- ***A Long, Violent, Road Ahead for Afghanistan***  
Mr Mahendra Ved  
*President Emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists Association, New Delhi*

- ***The Peril of Legitimation***  
**Prof Ajay Darshan Behera**  
Director, MMAJ Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia
- **Dr Ashok K. Behuria**  
*Senior Fellow & Coordinator, South Asia Centre, MP-IDSA*

**Q&A Session**

**VOTE OF THANKS**

**Mr Vishal Chandra**, *Conference Coordinator*